

AMENDMENT

Please amend the following claim:

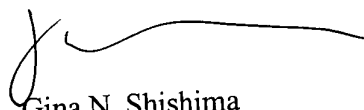
94. (Amended) The method of claim 92, wherein the nucleic acid segment further comprises at least about 200 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1.

REMARKS

In an Amendment and Response filed on February 27, 2002, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 to the Office Action dated September 28, 2001, claim 92 was amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 93. Claim 93 was cancelled. Claim 94 was dependent upon claim 93 and is now being amended to be dependent upon claim 92. Support for the amended claims can be found in the Specification, at least at page 37, line 13 and in the originally filed claims that form part of this application's written description. A copy of the claim amendment can be found in Appendix A. Applicant contends that no new matter has been added. Thus, claims 73-75, 85-92, and 94-101 are pending. A copy of the pending claims is provided in Appendix B.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (512) 536-3081 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX A: AMENDED CLAIM

94. (Amended) The method of claim 92 [93], wherein the nucleic acid segment further comprises at least about 200 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1.

APPENDIX B: PENDING CLAIMS

73. A method of inhibiting apoptosis in a cell comprising providing the cell with a nucleic acid segment encoding a human sentrin-1 polypeptide, wherein the segment encodes at least 100 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2.

74. The method of claim 73, wherein the nucleic acid segment is further defined as encoding a human sentrin-1 polypeptide that is at least 85% identical to SEQ ID NO:2.

75. The method of claim 74, wherein the nucleic acid segment is further defined as encoding a human sentrin-1 polypeptide that is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:2.

85. The method of claim 84, wherein the nucleic acid segment is further defined as encoding a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:2.

86. The method of claim 73, wherein the cell is comprised within an animal.

87. The method of claim 86, wherein the animal is a human.

88. The method of claim 86, wherein the nucleic acid segment is provided to the animal in an amount effective to prevent apoptosis of the cell.

89. The method of claim 86, wherein the nucleic acid is provided in a pharmaceutical excipient.

90. The method of claim 73, wherein the nucleic acid segment is operatively linked to a promoter that expresses the nucleic acid in the cell to provide the polypeptide.

91. The method of claim 90, wherein the nucleic acid segment is comprised within a vector.

92. A method of inhibiting apoptosis in a cell comprising providing the cell with a nucleic acid segment comprising at least about 100 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1.

94. The method of claim 92, wherein the nucleic acid segment further comprises at least about 200 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1.

95. The method of claim 94, wherein the nucleic acid segment further comprises at least SEQ ID NO:1.

96. The method of claim 92, wherein the cell is comprised within an animal.

97. The method of claim 96, wherein the animal is a human.

98. The method of claim 96, wherein the nucleic acid segment is provided to the animal in an amount effective to prevent apoptosis of the cell.

99. The method of claim 96, wherein the nucleic acid is provided in a pharmaceutical excipient.

100. The method of claim 92, wherein the nucleic acid segment is operatively linked to a promoter that expresses the nucleic acid in the cell to provide the polypeptide.

101. The method of claim 100, wherein the nucleic acid segment is comprised within a vector.